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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Felix Varela Center (Special; 1997)

Introduction

The Felix Varela Center (FVC) is a Cuban civil, voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental organization legally registered at the Ministry of Justice in September 1993.

Aims and purposes of the organization: Mission: The Felix Varela Center is a Cuban NGO which, from an ethics approach, teaches and promotes environmental responsibility for a sustainable development model. **Vision**: The Felix Varela Center has assumed a multidimensional and holistic approach to sustainable development that covers institutional, social, political, economic and environmental dimensions. It is part of a humanistic project whose essential elements are ethics and participation within an action framework for the constant improvement of our nation. The work of the Center is linked to — and is willing to assist and collaborate with — national institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, aimed at promoting sustainable development from a responsible and humanistic ethical perspective, in order to promote joint work for the benefit of our society. **Central work themes**: (a) Ethics and development: ethics for sustainability, ethics for a sustainable economy and environmental education for enterprises and gender; (b) Environmental education for sustainability: Green Map programme, local sustainability indicators; (c) Local and community development: Participation in community development processes and their relationship with sustainability and culture of peace and education for sustainability. **Aim of our institution**: To contribute to the development of an environmentally responsible behaviour that would promote community participation in the search for alternatives for local sustainable development in Cuba. During this quadrennium, FVC continued its work on development, training and awareness-raising for a culture of peace through conflict-solving mediation, conciliation processes for local management and the prevention of violence. The Center sponsors, promotes and conducts workshops on those topics throughout our country. An important achievement of this period is the setting up of a peace culture network, initially made up of 24 governmental and non-governmental institutions with approximately 100 members.

FVC is continuing its work on environmental and sustainable development education by means of its Green Map Project, which during this period consolidated the national mapmaker's network initiated in 2001. FVC continues its membership in international organizations and networks, as follows: the Regional Coordination of Economic and Social Studies (CRIES), which is the coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean for the prevention of armed conflicts; the Permanent Forum of Civil Society of the Greater Caribbean Region, specifically, the Environment and Identity and Culture Commissions; the Caribbean Policy Development Center (FVC is involved in its programmes for the environment, local and community development and the management of solid wastes); the Latin American Association of Promotion Organizations, a network that promotes and supports local initiatives and actions by the people's sectors for their development; the World Social Forum, a movement against neoliberal globalization; the Social and Environmental Responsibility Network of Latin American and Caribbean Enterprises; and The Green Map World Network.

Contribution to the work of the United Nations: FVC attended and supported preparatory meetings convened by the Cuban civil society related to United Nation events. FVC has also participated in other international activities related to the United Nations or to its agencies.

2005: (a) Fifth International Convention on the Environment and Development (Havana, July). FVC was part of the preparatory committee and made a presentation at the round table on civil society and the environment. It also launched the book *Bioética para la Sostenibilidad* published by the FVC publishing house. (b) FVC orally expressed its opinion on several Cuban civil society meetings held to draft the critical contribution to the Secretary-General's report "In larger freedom; towards development, security and human rights for all" at unofficial meetings with the President of the General Assembly (Havana, April-June). (c) Made an oral intervention at the Third Cuban Civil Society Forum against the Blockade and Annexation (Havana, October). (d) Attended a debate at a theatre in Havana City on the General Assembly's resolution on the need to cease the economic, trade and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba (November). (e) Organized, jointly with other local institutions, a community meeting to commemorate the World Environment Day (Havana, June). (f) Expressed its opinion at the meeting of Cuban civil society prior to the seventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (Havana, October). (g) Expressed its opinion on the amendments to the final declaration of the meeting "Cuban civil society in defence of sovereignty and human rights in Cuba" (Havana, April).

2006: Attended the Fourth Cuban Society Forum against the Blockade and Annexion, organized by the Cuban United Nations Association (Havana, October).

2007: (a) Sixth International Convention on the Environment and Development (Havana, July), FVC participated in the Cuban non-governmental organizations stand, where books were sold and promotional material on the Green Map was handed out. FVC was a member of the organizing committee of the colloquium on "Environment and civil society". (b) Attended and orally expressed its opinion at the Fifth Cuban Society Forum against the Blockade and Annexion, organized by the Cuban United Nations Association (Havana, October). (c) Participated in the regional capacity-building course on conflict analysis and prevention and citizen's diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean organized by CRIES (São Paulo, December).

2008: (a) Participated in the technical training given by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the making of the environmental indicators for Cuba (Havana, May). (b) Attended the Second Cuban Civil Society Forum "Human Rights in Cuba" (Havana, September). (c) Participated in a series of lectures/meetings of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Cuba with Cuban non-governmental organizations with Economic and Social Council consultative status (Havana, March, June, November). (d) Participated at an event commemorating the international day to support torture victims (Havana, June). (e) Participated in a regional capacity-building course on Peace and prevention of conflicts organized by CRIES (San Rafael, Argentina, December).

Initiatives in support of the Millennium Development Goals: Since the call made in the Millennium Declaration (United Nations, September 2000), the Felix Varela Center has reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to Goals 3 and 7.

Goal 3: To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women: The Felix Varela Center began to systematize a gender approach in its work, in order to implement a line of work that would meet the need of our society to improve and continue developing social justice. Since 2007 the Center has been obtaining funding for conducting several workshops and seminars and for publishing literature on gender such as gender and power; gender theory; making of indicators with a gender approach; masculinity and peace culture; links between gender and mass media; gender and violence; and gender and the environment. Women hold decision-making positions in FVC. Seventy-five per cent of the members of the Executive Board and two thirds of the membership of FVC is composed of women. *Entre el decir y el silencio* (*Between Speaking Out and Silence*), a documentary video on gender in Cuban society was filmed by our Center in 2008. It is shown in lectures, conferences and seminars. An essay contest on gender called Melanipa was carried out in December 2008.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability: FVC continues strengthening and developing the national Green Map Network that has its own development and training programme. This educational and action programme in favour of the environment is being carried at all provinces of Cuba and is part of the world Green Map network.

Activities in support of global principles: FVC sent messages, through its e-mail bulletin, in commemoration of global principles, the most outstanding of which is the World Environment Day. On that day workshops and community activities take place. The Center continues working with members of the Third Age opening spaces for their participation in the Center's activities and organizing a yearly workshop, "Ethical challenges of the Third Age", as part of bioethics in higher education meetings (2005-2008), of which the Center is a member of the organizing committee. FVC presented a paper at the 2006 and 2007 meetings.

Since 1993, FVC has been organizing the Ibero-American "Elena Gil" ethics contest. This contest grants awards to works that promote a value system based on love, dignity, social justice and solidarity, thus fostering change geared to making society free of misery and discord.

During 2005-2008, FVC publications were presented at the yearly International Book Fairs of Havana. In 2006 they were presented at the International Book Fairs of Bogotá (April-May) and Mexico City (October). In 2008 the Center presented its publications at the Fourth International Book Fair in Caracas (November). A total of four educational videos on conflict mediation and two documentary videos were made by FVC and 23 books were published.

2. Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations (Special; 2005)

Introduction, aims and purposes: The Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations (FRFG) is a research institute on the interface of science, politics and the business world. It improves the knowledge concerning intergenerational justice and sustainability through its practice-orientated research. Young scientists from several disciplines are working for FRFG on interdisciplinary projects. As an advocacy think-tank FRFG also tries to raise awareness of intergenerational justice and sustainability within the political area. To FRFG, intergenerational justice means

that today's youth and future generations must have at least the same opportunities to meet their own needs as the generation governing today. The organization's aim is not only a mere description of society but a change. It aims to provoke, challenge and ultimately stimulate politicians to recognize the rights of future generations and to implement measures to protect them. FRFG promotes this change through awarding an Intergenerational Justice Award to young scientists developing creative solutions for problems of intergenerational justice and sustainability every other year. Furthermore it publishes books and the peer-reviewed *Intergenerational Justice Review* journal to enhance our knowledge of these topics. FRFG takes part in numerous conferences around the world on topics relevant for its work like climate change, children's rights and sustainability and organizes its own conferences biennially. Furthermore FRFG is promoting the implementation of intergenerational justice and sustainability in national constitutions as wells as in conventions and treaties at the international and European levels. The network "Friends of FRFG" ensures the financial base of the foundation and, thus, its independence.

Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals: FRFG was very active in the field of promoting the Millennium Development Goals and the goals of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. This is especially true for the areas of environmental sustainability, global partnership and children's rights in terms of universal education and child health. The President of the organization, as well as members of the Board, participated in numerous conferences promoting these topics. The most important conferences in terms of United Nations relevance included (a) World Public Forum on the Dialogue of Civilizations (2006) which was morally supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); (b) British German Forum of the Wilton Park International Policy Conference (2007) supported by the United Nations Global Compact Office, the United Nations University, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; (c) A conference of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development on financing the Millennium Goals in Berlin (2008).

Furthermore the President was part of the jury for the Future Award 2006 of the Institute for Future Studies and Technology Evaluation in Berlin on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Other conferences attended by FRFG staff related to (a) gender equality (Goal 3); 2008; Berlin, 13-14 October 2008; (b) child health (Goal 4); (c) environmental sustainability (Goal 7); (d) global partnership (Goal 8); (e) education for sustainable development (United Nations decade topic).

Sustainability in general and environmental sustainability in special was also promoted by the President and Board members of FRFG in numerous appearances on television and radio talk shows and political discussions. FRFG has also published numerous scientific books and anthologies on topics of sustainability in cooperation with renowned publishers between 2005 and 2008, including books on population policy in the context of social justice between generations (2005) and generational justice as a concept for businesses (2005); a handbook of intergenerational justice (2006); "A right to vote without age limit?" (2008); and

information on the United Nations guidelines for the enhanced coverage of sustainability. An article on the guidelines was published in issue in the *Journal for Generational Justice* (No. 1, 2005) in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Bonn.

In the same issue FRFG published an article by an employee of the German Bayer AG on the cooperation of UNEP and Bayer in the fields of youth and environment. Meanwhile the journal was transformed into the peer-reviewed *Intergenerational Justice Review* which treats United Nations-relevant topics like children's rights, climate change, historical injustice and peace and is furthering research on the implementation and effectiveness of United Nations conventions, guidelines and resolutions. An invitation to assess United Nations policy and international law is always part of the call for papers for issues of the Review.

3. Institute of Cultural Affairs International (Special; 1985)

Introduction

Institute of Cultural Affairs International (ICAI) was founded in 1977. It is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to addressing poverty conflict, and injustice by facilitating the role of culture in human development. Our mission is to advocate for and actualize the fundamental right of all peoples to define and shape their own futures, in order to realize sustainable, just solutions to human challenges. This mission is achieved through a unique, participatory approach that places culture at the centre of the development process.

ICAI carries out research and field programmes and contributes to policy dialogues. ICAI programmes cover a wide spectrum of human development issues and challenges, as determined by the needs of local communities. Among the many issue areas addressed are HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, and care; forest conservation and protecting the rights of forest communities; and youth empowerment and participation. ICAI works collaboratively with United Nations agencies, Governments, academics and other non-governmental organizations. Its structure is that of a global association of national, autonomous member organizations that are presently located in 31 countries.

Relocation: In response to the ever-widening need to incorporate cultural perspectives in addressing development challenges around the world, ICAI recently reorganized and moved its operations. After operating from Brussels since its establishment in 1977, the organization relocated to Montreal in March 2007. This move was intended to strategically position the organization for an enhanced role and impact in international development.

Objects: While the purpose of the organization remains the same, following its relocation the General Assembly more clearly articulated the work of the organization. The objective of the organization is to provide relief from poverty and suffering in economically challenged communities throughout the world by (a) educating and instructing the public on the prevention of, and curative measures for, health problems; (b) providing or facilitating quality early childhood, elementary, and high school education and vocational training programmes for needy children

and youth; (c) improving the quality of drinking water by constructing wells and water treatment, irrigation and sewage treatment systems; (d) improving local infrastructures, including telephone and other basic communication technology, roads and transportation systems, and fuel sources; (e) establishing, operating and providing microfinance programmes and services to financially disadvantaged persons and communities in order to economically enhance communities and develop entrepreneurs as a means to eradicate poverty and hunger; (f) improving skills in forestry, agriculture and horticulture and assisting in the preservation of the environment in economically challenged communities; (g) developing, organizing and conducting programmes, seminars, conferences, resource materials and study materials for interested members of the public, member institutes of cultural affairs, other non-profit organizations, United Nations agencies and governments of all levels, both within Canada and abroad that are interested in pursuing an understanding of the need for poverty relief work; (h) promoting, supporting, facilitating and coordinating dialogue concerning poverty relief work; (i) carrying out research and holding educational conferences, seminars and workshops related to poverty relief work and distributing the results of such research; and (j) establishing, implementing and monitoring international policies, standards and practices regarding poverty relief work. These modified objects clarified the purpose of the organization but did not signify any major change in its vision or scope of work.

Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in United Nations meetings: (a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: in 2005 our representative participated in the eleventh Conference of the Parties in Montreal. Prior to the Conference the organization participated in undertaking a global monitoring project with other organizations which was spearheaded by the Global Forest Coalition. During the Conference of the Parties, our representative took part in a side event that presented the outcome of the monitoring project. We sent a representative to the climate change talks held in Accra in August 2008. Our representative participated in the drafting of a policy paper developed by World Rainforest Movement meant for the meeting and was responsible for its distribution during the meeting. (b) United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity: Participated in the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held in Montreal in 2005. Our representative chaired a side event of a workshop to show efforts being made by some organizations to reclaim degraded lands. We participated in the third Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in March 2006 and the eighth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil. Prior to the meetings our representative served as a resource person in a workshop organized by the Global Forest Coalition to build the capacity of participating non-governmental organizations to enhance their contribution to the meeting. Our representative was engaged in lobbying government officials on sustaining the ban on the release of genetically modified organisms until it is proven that they pose no harm to the natural environment. Ad hoc open-ended working group on article 8j and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Montreal in October 2007. (c) United Nations Forum on Forests: Participated in the fifth session, held at United Nations Headquarters in May 2005 and represented the non-governmental organization community in the multi-stakeholder dialogue debates. We also participated in the sixth session in February 2006 and the seventh session in April, 2007.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: Supported the Millennium Development Goals campaign by printing posters and distributing them to our member organizations. We organized an orientation workshop for our members in Africa in 2005 to build their capacities on issues relating to the Goals. In November 2008 in Takayama, Japan, we organized our seventh Global Conference on Human Development with the theme "Unlocking the potential to create a new world together". With the active support of the United Nations Development Programme the conference considered various major human development challenges being faced worldwide.

4. International Council of Jewish Women (Special; 1969)

Introduction

The International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW) was founded in 1912. ICJW is a non-partisan, volunteer organization that has directed its efforts towards improving the status of women, social welfare activity and advocacy for human improvement. Within the larger objective of achieving universal peace and enhancing human rights, it seeks to spread knowledge about and promote support for the United Nations. Presently there are 52 Jewish women's organizations in 47 countries, on six continents, affiliated to ICJW, with a membership of over one and a half million women. ICJW holds quadrennial conventions, regional conferences (in Europe, Latin America, North America, and Asia-Pacific) and annual executive meetings. The ICJW headquarters is always situated in the country of the President, who may serve no more than one four-year term. It maintains delegations of permanent representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna. It is accredited to the Council of Europe and has a permanent representative in Strasbourg, as well as with the European Women's Lobby. It is also accredited to UNICEF, with representation in New York and Geneva, and to UNESCO, with a delegation in Paris. In 1987, ICJW was cited with the Peace Messenger Award.

Aims of the organization: ICJW supports programmes and projects through the services of trained volunteers at both international and national levels and concentrates its efforts on issues relating to the status of women, social and community welfare, education, human rights, the elimination of racial discrimination and the environment. The organization functions as a central representative body, defining policy for its affiliates and directing affiliate activity towards cooperative effort with the United Nations agencies, national Governments and non-governmental organizations. It urges at all times the dissemination of information to motivate public opinion. Committed to the aims and purposes of the United Nations, the International Council of Jewish Women acts as a liaison between the United Nations and its affiliates, circulates reports on aspects of the United Nations operations that fall within the purview of its by-laws, supplying information and materials and requesting responses on local action taken. Annual directives embodying the guidelines for the observance of United Nations-designated years and decades are sent to all affiliates. Directives and calls for action are circulated for affiliates to urge their national Governments to implement United Nations conventions, declarations and resolutions, to supply information solicited by various branches of the Economic and Social Council, and to hold special meetings to commemorate

United Nations Day, Human Rights Day, International Women's Day, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and so on. Representatives of the organization have attended the World Assembly on Ageing, the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking event in Cape Town, South Africa, in November 2007, the four World Conferences of the Decade for Women, Beijing +5 and Beijing +10, as well as all sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in the period of this report.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at headquarters: During the reporting period representatives of ICJW were active participants in the non-governmental community:

New York: attended all the Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conferences, including the one held in Paris in September 2008. Phyllis Gottdiener, a member of the non-governmental Committee on Ageing and the Subcommittee on Violence Against Women, has also been a member of the Committee on the Status of Women, Subcommittee on Older Women, and of the Committee on Migration. Madeleine Brecher was a member of the Executive Committee of the Committee on the Status of Women (2008), the planning committees of the Committee on the Status of Women and the Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference, the Committee on the Status of Women Handbook Committee in New York. Joan Goldberg was the co-chair of the Registration Committee and on the Planning Committee (New York) for the sixty-first Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference in Paris. Judith Mintz represented ICJW in the Committee on UNICEF Working Group on Violence against Children and Working Group on Girls. Before her, Roberta Ross was the chair of the Committee on UNICEF Working Group on Girls in 2005 and was the editor of its newsletter in 2006 and 2007. Roberta Ross chaired a round table for the Division for the Advancement of Women at the fifty-first Committee on the Status of Women.

As members of these non-governmental organizations committees, the representatives have assisted in the preparation of statements for submission to the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and have made interventions before these bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Committee on UNICEF, the UNICEF Working Group on Girls and the Committee on the Status of Women.

ICJW co-sponsored a number of parallel events at the United Nations during the reporting period, including those on (a) community outreach and health, at the sixty-first Annual Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference in September 2008, co-sponsored with Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America; (b) corporate feminism, at the fifty-second session of the Committee on the Status of Women in February 2008, co-sponsored with Soroptomist International; (c) Muslim and Jewish women, at the fifty-second session of the Committee on the Status of Women, co-sponsored with the United States Federation for Middle East Peace; and (d) water security and climate change, at the sixtieth annual Conference in September 2007, co-sponsored with Hadassah.

Geneva: Participated in the work of the Human Rights Council, especially in regard to the rights of women and children; we were active in the non-governmental committees dealing with human rights, status of women, freedom of religion and

belief, refugees and children in armed conflict and displacement. We contributed to and signed statements on the above subjects in United Nations forums.

ICJW was a member of the non-governmental organizations Special Committee on Human Rights in Geneva, and our representative, Léonie de Picciotto, was re-elected to its bureau as secretary in February 2004 for a second three-year term. ICJW contributed to and co-sponsored several statements. ICJW participated in the annual sessions of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Vienna: The ICJW representative has been posted in Vienna since the establishment of the United Nations Office in 1979 and has served on the Board of most of the non-governmental organizations committees in different functions and co-sponsored several statements during the review period.

The ICJW representatives to UNESCO and UNICEF in Paris have co-sponsored several statements, and permanently disseminate their programmes and objectives. The head of the ICJW delegation to UNESCO has been vice-chair and group president of several non-governmental organizations Committees. For the "water group" the ICJW delegation edited leaflets relating case histories of non-governmental organizations and debates on the implementation of the results of World Water Forums. They submitted a joint non-governmental statement of support to the UNESCO General Conference concerning "Holocaust Remembrance" (2007). The reactivated human rights commission was vice-chaired by the ICJW representative, which coincided with the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Represented the Human Rights Commission on a round table focused on the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. The ICJW representative has been asked to chair a group to present a short declaration on the Durban Review Conference.

Iana Zbar, another ICJW representative to UNESCO, is vice-chairperson of the Intercultural Dialogue for Peace Committee, rapporteur of the Committee on the Eradication of Poverty and a member of the non-governmental working groups on women and micro-credit and education for peace. Gabrielle Voignac at UNESCO concentrated on science and ethics and biomedical issues and attended the International Bioethics Committee (2006). Danielle Obadia, a member of the UNESCO Commission on Dialogue between Cultures for Peace, organized a session on human rights and the Internet at the sixty-first annual Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference, held in Paris in September 2008.

ICJW publishes a semi-annual newsletter in English and Spanish and sends annual directives and guidelines to affiliates proposing specific action in support of United Nations events. A special edition of the newsletter in September 2008 was devoted to the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. At each of the organization's conventions, one session was devoted to the United Nations and its activities. Matters receiving special attention at each session were women's issues and the need for women's participation at all levels of society; peace and the human rights of all humankind; elimination of all forms of racial discrimination; concern for the ageing, disabled and mentally retarded; care for children and youth; and the environment.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: ICJW representatives have initiated programmes on maternal health, with emphasis on genetic diseases, offered testing to the community at large, and encouraged local community initiatives on various aspects of environmental concern. Affiliated organizations were encouraged to develop projects to carry out the overall goals of the United Nations, thus serving as a catalyst for national and local efforts and a conduit of these aims on all levels of society.

5. International Shinto Foundation (Special; 2001)

Introduction: As an indigenous faith tradition, Shinto contains values and elements common to the majority of the world's ethnographical cultures, and thus has much to contribute in the sharing of inter-cultural dialogue and exchange. The International Shinto Foundation (ISF) assists scholarly research in aspects of culture and religion at academic institutions internationally and cooperates with them in sponsoring projects and events. ISF has been cooperating harmoniously with other non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies in promoting human welfare and environmental sustainability. ISF is a not-for-profit corporation accredited in Japan and the United States of America. ISF is headquartered in Tokyo with the New York centre functioning as an international centre and maintains liaison offices in London, Moscow, Hangzhou, China and Washington, D.C. Its membership currently stands at 795 individual members and 15 institutional members distributed over nine countries: the United States, China, Japan, France, Norway, Russia, Spain, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. Membership is open to any sympathetic organization or individual who wishes to participate in the philosophy, purpose and goals of ISF. Current members generally are associated with other cultural organizations, and tend to be scholars and researchers in the field of cultural studies. ISF maintains cooperative relationships with institutions of Japanese cultural studies associated with various universities. The financial status of ISF is based on membership fees and corporate and individual contributions. Although the worldwide economic stagnation in the last few years has affected its financial status, ISF has not received any contribution of any kind from a Government or an intergovernmental source directly or indirectly.

Contributions of the organization to the work of the United Nations in line with the Millennium Development Goals: Since its accreditation as a non-governmental organization associated with the Department of Public Information, ISF has been sending its representatives to the annual Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations Conference and contributing to the work of the executive committee every year. ISF has maintained a good relationship with the United Nations information centres in Tokyo and Moscow. Currently ISF endeavours to make the Millennium Development Goals known as widely as possible among Japanese people by publicizing related articles and reports in its journals and website (www.shinto.org).

Activities in support of global principles: ISF developed its activities on culture, education, environment, food, human rights, indigenous peoples, international peace and security, religion, social development, sustainable development and water. As in previous years, ISF has endeavoured to promote the significance and importance of the various International Years proclaimed by the United Nations by organizing

symposia and workshops. In 2005, the International Year of Sport and Physical Education, ISF organized events in Tokyo, New York, and Moscow. On 7 July 2005, 300 people gathered in the Japan Youth Hall in Tokyo for an international symposium entitled "Spiritual and practical values of martial arts as a means of physical education" which was organized by ISF and supported by the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo, the embassies of Israel, Tunisia, Mongolia and Poland and the Shumpukan Martial Arts Society.

In New York, on 9 September 2005, over 100 people attended a workshop on the same theme held as an off-site event of the fifty-eighth Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference, organized by ISF and supported by the Japan Society.

On 20 December 2005, another symposium on the same topic was held in Moscow with 100 people, organized by ISF and the Russian Martial Arts Sport Corporation under the auspices of the United Nations Information Centre in Moscow.

In 2006, ISF was selected as a sponsor of mid-day interactive workshops for the fifty-ninth annual Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference. In conjunction with the 2006 International Year of Desert and Desertification, ISF co-sponsored a workshop showing how sacred forests and groves of Shinto shrines have been protected and developed as important assets of human life in Japan and the rest of the world. ISF sponsored a special Gagaku concert in New York City on 28 November 2006 under the joint auspices of the Permanent Mission of Japan and the Japan Society commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Japan's membership in the United Nations. ISF has been a member of the non-governmental committee for the Decade of Indigenous People since 1998. ISF Director-General Yoshimi Umeda has also submitted statements each year on behalf of Shinto in the panel sessions and supported the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. ISF has been a member of the committee of religious non-governmental organizations and the conference of non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and has been supporting and participating in the annual interfaith service of commitment to the work of the United Nations at the opening of the annual session of the General Assembly in September every year.

Since 2000 ISF has been organizing the International Children's Day celebration in New York as a Shinto cultural presentation in accordance with the traditional Japanese custom of blessing for children's growth and future happiness. A portion of contributions received from participants in this event is donated to UNICEF.

ISF opened a liaison office in Washington, D.C., in 2008 with a couple of voluntary representatives who have begun making contact with civil society in the metropolitan area.

6. UNANIMA International (Special; 2005)

Introduction: UNANIMA International (UNANIMA) was created in 2002 as a non-governmental coalition of communities of religious women throughout the world who work in solidarity with others to bring economic and social advancement particularly to women and children living in poverty, immigrants and refugees. The

17 communities that are its members work as educators, social workers, health-care workers, development workers and community organizers in more than 67 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas and Australia and the Pacific. In the past four years UNANIMA has chosen to work against human trafficking as its major focus. This focus has been broadly interpreted to include the causes and consequences of human trafficking which overlap with many of the Millennium Development Goals, e.g. poverty, migration, violence against women and HIV/AIDS.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: UNANIMA participated in the forty-ninth to fifty-second sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at United Nations Headquarters, bringing delegates from Nigeria, Lesotho, Peru, Australia, Canada and the United States. UNANIMA submitted statements to the fiftieth to fifty-second sessions on such topics as the impacts of human trafficking and prostitution on women; the needs of vulnerable groups of women regarding trade policies, access to public goods and property rights; domestic violence; and the sexual abuse and exploitation of the girl child. The coordinator was a member of the non-governmental committee on the status of women, which organized a round table in preparation for the fifty-second session on financing for gender equality on 28 January 2008. The organization brought civil society experts to the General Assembly civil society hearings to review the Millennium Declaration (June 2005) and attended the high-level summit on United Nations reform and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (September 2005). UNANIMA sponsored an interactive discussion during the forty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development on poverty eradication at the community level, with speakers from the Philippines, India and Pakistan, and participated in the forty-fourth to forty-sixth sessions, submitting statements on relevant topics. UNANIMA presented alternative non-governmental organizations reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women relative to the periodic reports of Australia (thirty-fourth session), Mexico (thirty-sixth session), Nicaragua (thirty-seventh session), Pakistan (thirty-eighth session), Nigeria (forty-first session) and the United Kingdom (forty-first session) and submitted a joint statement with Australian, Cambodian and Thai non-governmental organizations to the 34th session regarding the need to address the trade and migration issues that escalate human trafficking. UNANIMA brought delegations from Africa, the United States, France and the United Kingdom to the thirteenth and sixteenth sessions Commission for Sustainable Development and also participated in the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies: UNANIMA has principally worked with United Nations bodies at Headquarters. UNANIMA was a co-founder of the non-governmental committee on HIV/AIDS in 2005; helped plan the civil society forum for the Commission for Social Development; moderated a round table in February 2006 in preparation for the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women; was a member of the steering group of the working group on girls of the non-governmental committee on UNICEF; and organized a panel discussion on incorporating demand into the fight against human trafficking in July 2008.

Contribution to special events: UNANIMA chaired a panel on World AIDS Day 2006 on "The Impact of HIV and AIDS on children and families"; co-sponsored cultural events held in recognition of the sixth and seventh sessions of the

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; was a member of the non-governmental committee on the United Nations Decade of the World's Indigenous People; as chair of the committee on HIV/AIDS, worked with focal points of the United Nations high-level dialogue on HIV/AIDS in June 2008. **Bringing speakers to events**: Provided a keynote speaker from the Philippines to share her experience of living in extreme poverty at the forty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development; (ii) brought a representative from Swaziland for the civil society forum prior to the special session on HIV/AIDS in 2006. **Participation in special sessions**: Attended the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development; participated in the high-level dialogue on international migration of the General Assembly, September 2006 and UNANIMA published an advocacy flyer for this session; attended the General Assembly high-level dialogue on financing for development in 2007, the six General Assembly review sessions of the Monterrey Consensus in 2008 and hearings of civil society on financing for development at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly in June 2008.

Participation in United Nations bodies and initiatives in other locations: Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, February 2008; UNHCR annual consultations with non-governmental organizations, September 2007 in Geneva; meeting in Rome in October 2007 to build an international network to address the fight against trafficking in persons.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: Sponsored a speaker to address the abuse of human rights of Restavek children in Haiti at the Commission on the Status of Women 2007; facilitated a side event with speakers from Philippines, India and Pakistan to address poverty eradication efforts during the 44th session of the Commission for Social Development; provided a key speaker for the annual International Day Against Poverty at United Nations Headquarters, 17 October 2006.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women: Advocated for a rights-based approach to human trafficking at side events during the 34th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; promoted the conventions on the rights of migrants, elimination of discrimination against women and rights in a paper distributed across North America by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, November 2006; organized a side event during the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women on violence against girls in Haiti, Ghana and Togo; brought a Canadian aboriginal youth speaker to address "A World Fit for Children + 5" December 2007; co-sponsored a side event at the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the economics of the sex industry, February 2008; developed a campaign to stop the demand for trafficking in women and children in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish which has been distributed in more than 60 countries.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: Co-sponsored an interactive workshop on good practices in approaches to HIV/AIDS to mark the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples in September 2005; sponsored a parallel event on 26 February 2006 at the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on partnering communities to prevent violence and the spread of HIV/AIDS, with a speaker from Kenya.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability: Sponsored a speaker from Lesotho a side event during the 13th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in April 2005; collaborated in the development of a Web-based advocacy programme on water as a human right and public good in support of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015.

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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

Aims, purposes and main course of action of the organization: The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) is an independent regional non-governmental organization founded in 1993. It aims at promoting respect for the principles of human rights and democracy, analysing the difficulties facing the application of international human rights law and disseminating human rights culture in the Arab region as well as engaging in dialogue between cultures with respect to the various international human rights treaties and declarations. CIHRS seeks to attain this objective through developing, proposing and promoting policies, legislation and constitutional amendments. CIHRS works on human rights advocacy in national, regional and international human rights mechanisms, research and human rights education, both for youth and ongoing professional development for human rights defenders. CIHRS is a major publisher of information, a bulletin, an academic quarterly journal, and scores of books concerning human rights. A key part of the CIHRS mandate is to help shape the understanding of the most pressing human rights issues within the region and then to coordinate and mobilize the key players and NGOs from across the Arab world to work together to raise public awareness about these issues and to reach solutions in line with the international human rights law. CIHRS enjoys observer status in the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. CIHRS is also a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, the Euro-Mediterranean Non-Governmental Platform and the International Freedom of Expression Exchange. CIHRS is registered in Egypt. CIHRS was awarded the French Republic Award for Human Rights on 10 December 2007.

Significant changes in the organization: Since 2005, CIHRS has integrated the international advocacy component into its programmes' activities. Starting in 2008 CIHRS has had an international advocacy programme that ensures its sustainable engagement with the various international and regional human rights mechanisms, including the United Nations Human Rights Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: The following meetings, all related to the United Nations Human Rights Council, were attended by representatives of CIHRS: (a) fourth session, Geneva, Switzerland, March 2007, submitted a written statement entitled "Civilian Protection within Armed Conflicts of the Arab Region" and delivered two oral statements on violence against women; (b) fifth session in Geneva, Switzerland, June 2007, submitted two written statements entitled "Credibility of UN Rights Council rests on the adoption of reforms this June" and "The human rights and humanitarian situation in Darfur: the need for peace, protection and accountability"; (c) sixth session (first part and resumed), Geneva, Switzerland, September 2007 and December 2007. During this session, CIHRS delivered a total of four oral statements on the human rights situation in Darfur; (d) fourth special session on the human rights situation in Darfur, Geneva, Switzerland, December 2006, held a parallel event at the Council regarding the human rights situation in Darfur; (e) seventh session, Geneva,

Switzerland, March 2008, delivered one oral statement entitled "Review, rationalization and improvements of mandates: Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of freedom of opinion and expression" and submitted one written statement entitled "Limitations imposed on the right of association in the Arab region: human right defenders and civil society organizations under attack". CIHRS held a parallel event on human rights defenders in Africa; (f) eighth session, Geneva, Switzerland, June 2008, where CIHRS submitted the four following written statements: "Evaluating of the UPR process dealing with Bahrain and recommendations to reform the universal periodic review procedures"; "Independence of the judiciary in the Arab world"; "An attempt by the League of Arab States to repress regional media freedom and control satellite channels"; "Precedent set by Arab States threatens legitimacy of the universal periodic review process". During the same session CIHRS delivered eight oral statements on achievements of the Office of the High Commissioner; Morocco universal periodic review; Algeria universal periodic review; the first session of the universal periodic review including four Arab States; evaluation of the universal periodic review process when dealing with Bahrain; the siege and legal ban on several human rights groups imposed by the Government of Bahrain; general comments on the universal periodic review process; (g) ninth session, September 2008, Geneva, Switzerland. CIHRS submitted six written statements on United Nations resolutions on combating defamation of religions; enforced disappearance in the Syrian Arab Republic; defamation of religions in Egypt; judicial proceedings of the International Criminal Court against the President of the Sudan, and the international community's obligation to support the International Criminal Court; 16 years of Algeria's failure to bring an end to enforced disappearances; human rights in Palestine: between the hammer of Israeli occupation and the sickle of internal conflict. CIHRS also delivered six oral statements on the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan: the report of the fact finding mission to Beit Hanoun; reports of the High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination xenophobia and related intolerance on the topic of defamation of religions, the panel discussion on the question of missing persons; the role of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the effective promotion and protection of all human rights and as an inspiration for human rights defenders everywhere. CIHRS organized a parallel event regarding the misuse of the concept of defamation of religion.

United Nations Human Rights Committee: Session of the Commission held in Geneva, Switzerland, July 2007, contributed to the debate on the human rights report for the Sudan.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) conferences and meetings: (a) co-organized a meeting with OHCHR held in Cairo in December 2007 to discuss the methods of activating the Arab Charter on Human Rights; (b) Regional Seminar on Upholding Human Rights While Countering Terrorism (Middle East and North Africa region), Amman, October 2008, organized by OHCHR. CIHRS attended and lobbied on the effect of counter-terrorism measures on public freedoms in Egypt; (c) consultative meeting on the development of a comprehensive human rights strategy for Africa. Meeting organized by the OHCHR Regional Office in Ethiopia held in Ezulwini, Swaziland, in May 2008. In December 2008, OHCHR invited the CIHRS Director for a round table discussion

about the CIHRS 2008 annual report, entitled *From Exporting Terrorism to Exporting Repression*.

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights: Attended thirty-ninth, forty-third and forty-fourth sessions of the African Commission for Human and Peoples Rights held in the Gambia, May 2006, Swaziland, May 2008 and Nigeria, November 2008 respectively. CIHRS delivered a number of oral interventions, and lobbied on a variety of subjects including human rights defenders and protection of civilians in Darfur.

African Union: Attended ninth and eleventh African Union Summits in Ghana, June/July 2007 and Egypt, June/July 2008, respectively. CIHRS lobbied on a variety of issues including the protection of civilians in Darfur and the situation of African asylum-seekers in Egypt.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: During the reporting period focused more on the rights of minorities and women's rights to participate in the democratic space as well as the question of political participation in general. CIHRS inherently believes that empowering women and marginalized cultural as well as religious communities in the Middle East and North Africa would eventually benefit the global cause of the Millennium Development Goals.

Activities in support of global principles: Strengthened the capacities of communities in the Middle East and North Africa in the transition to democracy, through the study of problematic management of the transition to democracy; focused on appropriate strategies and priorities, and issues of freedom of association and expression, the independence of the judiciary, elections, and women's rights. This has been done through organizing and holding several national and regional conferences in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, the Sudan and France. CIHRS released tens of publications in both Arabic and English to increase the awareness of Middle Eastern intellectuals and activists to the recent challenges to the process of democratization in the region and its implications for social and economic development.

Human rights education: During the reporting period, was involved in the organization of nine training courses, both inside and outside Egypt. In addition to the sixteenth annual summer school for human rights, with around 40 participants each, CIHRS held three tolerance workshops, aimed at Egyptian youth; a training of trainers workshop for women's rights; two training sessions on the International Criminal Court for lawyers from Darfur; two international human rights mechanisms training sessions for Egyptian activists and professionals; and one training session on international human rights. The Institute participated within the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, as a member of the Working Group on Human Rights Education and Youth, in the organization of the 2008 summer school in Turkey.

Protection of civilians in armed conflicts: CIHRS took a legalistic, apolitical approach when dealing with the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. As such, CIHRS was the first Arab human rights NGO to analyse and monitor the human rights situation in Darfur since the beginning of the conflict in 2003, as well as the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon. CIHRS used regional and international instances such as sessions of the Human Rights Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to

communicate its position. In 2006, CIHRS joined and helped organize a joint fact-finding mission to eastern Chad to interview Darfur refugees. CIHRS organized several regional workshops and conferences for journalists, columnists and media presenters from 13 Arab countries as well as a conference to discuss the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East region. The CIHRS advocacy campaign in this regard consisted of publishing several books and reports. CIHRS was the first organization to call for a special session of the Human Rights Council on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories (December 2008).

2. Global Youth Action Network (Special, 2005)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization: The Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) is a 501 (c) 3, not-for-profit organization, launched in 1996 and registered in the State of New York, United States of America. GYAN's mission is to facilitate youth participation and intergenerational partnership in global decision-making; support collaboration among diverse youth organizations; and provide tools, resources and recognition for positive youth action. GYAN works to raise awareness about global issues among young people and youth organizations, and to share information and resources that help to build their capacity to be leaders in their communities and in their countries. GYAN distributes information about United Nations activities to its members and network through blogs, newsletters, publications and printed material. GYAN facilitates youth participation in decision-making through consulting with its member organizations on issues relevant and important to young people and submitting written statements to the Functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Change in organizational affiliations and by-laws: Since 2002, GYAN has worked in partnership with TakingITGlobal, a charitable organization registered in Toronto, Canada, carrying out many joint programmatic efforts to engage young people in global issues. In 2008, the two organizations entered into a strategic alliance, which further deepened their partnership. The two organizations remain separately registered and governed organizations, but pool operational and programmatic resources to increase the reach and impact of programmes. The same year, GYAN adopted revised by-laws. The by-laws clarified the rights of member organizations; the purpose, governance and structure of the organization did not change.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: GYAN monitored and attended meetings and conferences at the United Nations that were relevant to our member organizations. In partnership with NGOs, Governments and United Nations entities, GYAN organized side events and workshops at several meetings. GYAN submitted written statements to the Commission for Social Development, as the functional commission which dealt directly with issues related to youth. Finally, GYAN contributed to expert group meetings on youth organized by the Programme on Youth within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Examples of participation and contributions at United Nations Headquarters, New

York were: (a) Expert Group Meeting on Goals and Targets for the World Programme of Action for Youth: "Youth in Civil Society" and "Youth and their Well-Being" (May 2008). The GYAN Executive Director and programme staff presented results of research and contributed to the dialogue and outcome documents;[1] (b) Expert Group Meeting on Goals and Targets for Monitoring the Progress of Youth in the Global Economy (May 2007), contributed to the dialogue and outcome documents; (c) Commission for Social Development (2005-2008), participated as observers, advocated for increased focus on young people, and organized orientation sessions and side events. In 2008, GYAN submitted a written statement based on a consultation with its members;[2] (d) Commission on the Status of Women (2005-2008), participated as observers and organized side events. In 2007 GYAN partnered with UNICEF to consult with children and young people and prepare an advocacy report;[3] (f) Commission on Sustainable Development (2005-2008), supported the work of the Commission Youth Caucus, attended the sessions as observers, and organized and participated in side events; (g) at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 2007 (July 2007, Geneva), attended the Annual Ministerial Review as observers.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters: GYAN cooperated with several United Nations specialized agencies to raise awareness of United Nations activities among children and young people. Specific projects in collaboration with UNICEF include (partial listing): (a) consult with children and young people on what can be done to improve the implementation of the rights of the girl child[4] 2006-2007 and on conflict zones, to contribute to the Machel Study 10-year Strategic Review[5] 2007-2008; (b) partnership with the United Nations Population Fund and UNAIDS to create the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS, a network of young HIV/AIDS activists that provided capacity-building and facilitated participation in international conferences[6] 2005-2008.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: GYAN implemented a range of activities to raise awareness and support the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals: (a) served as the secretariat for the Ad Hoc Working Group on Youth and the Millennium Development Goals, which compiled case studies, best practices and policy recommendations on how Governments and international institutions can involve young people in achieving the Goals. The final report was launched at the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2005;[7] (b) partnered with the United Nations Millennium Campaign and TakingITGlobal to raise awareness and mobilize youth networks for action around the Goals. A Millennium Development Goal Youth Campaign Kit was created and distributed to hundreds of youth organizations around the world[8] (2005); (c) since 2005,

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[1] Presentation available at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/egm_unhq_may08_vidar_ekehaug.pdf.

[2] Statement available at http://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?Open&DS=E/CN.5/2008/NGO/17&Lang=E.

[3] Report and background at http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_3724.html.

[4] Details available at http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_3724.html.

[5] Details available at http://www.un.org/children/conflict/english/theyouthreport.html.

[6] Details available at http://www.youthaidscoalition.org/.

[7] Details available at http://www.tigweb.org/themes/mdg/youthinpolicy.html.

[8] Details available at http://www.tigweb.org/themes/mdg/campaign_kit.html.

participated in the Global Call to Action against Poverty, in particular as founding member of the Children and Youth Task Force. GYAN has mobilized its members around the annual Stand Up against Poverty event since its launch in 2006.

Activities in support of global principles: Circulated information about United Nations international days, events and celebrations in support of United Nations global principles. In particular, organized its members and youth globally around the following events: (a) Global Youth Service Day: in partnership with Youth Service America, coordinated an annual global celebration of young volunteers. Several United Nations agencies, including United Nations Volunteers, served on the International Coordinating Committee for the celebrations; (b) World AIDS Day: GYAN and its Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS has mobilized its members to celebrate World AIDS Day every year since 2005.

3. International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Special; 1981)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes: The purpose of the organization (EAFORD) is humanitarian, emanating from the principle of the equality in dignity and rights of all human beings and people. The specific principles and objectives of the organization are set forth in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The organization adopts all legitimate means of contributing to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination everywhere, and attempts to organize efforts for that purpose to ensure a greater measure of effectiveness, including the following: (a) collection of information and preparation of studies and references on racism in general and the dissemination thereof; (b) development of awareness of the racism problem and its danger to the human community, human dignity and world peace through publications, conferences, seminars and other methods; (c) confirmation of the moral and human values of equality and justice without discrimination; (d) exposure of the interrelationship between racism, colonialism and imperialism; (e) cooperation and support with efforts of NGOs engaged in combating racism and racial discrimination; (f) performance of such other activities as may contribute to greater understanding among people on the basis of equal worth and dignity of all human beings. For example, EAFORD grants occasionally Fellowship Awards to graduate students and presents an international award for the promotion of human understanding.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: As it has done for over three decades, EAFORD continued to engage in a number of activities and projects, often in cooperation with the United Nations or NGOs concerned with human rights and the elimination of racial discrimination. Activities of EAFORD were directed towards the realization of the objectives of the United Nations by fighting discrimination in all fields. Some of these activities during the period under review included: (a) convened seminars and conferences under joint auspices with universities, NGOs and the United Nations on racism and racial discrimination in general, and on self-determination of Palestinians and rights and conditions of indigenous peoples and minorities, especially in Geneva, New York and the Middle East; (b) oral and written interventions in numerous conferences and

seminars organized by NGOs and the United Nations and its bodies; (c) United Nations International Meeting on the Question of Palestine in Geneva in March 2005 and United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of the Palestinian People in September 2006; (d) all sessions of the Human Rights Council in 2006, 2007 and 2008, and made interventions under agenda item 2 "Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General"; item 3 "Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development"; item 4 "Human rights situations that require the Council's attention"; item 5 "Human rights bodies and mechanisms"; item 7 "Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories"; item 8 "Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action"; item 9 "Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action"; segment on Mr. Dugard's report on the occupied Palestinian territories; segment on Mr. Scheinen's report on human rights and terrorism; segment 23 on Mr. Diène's report on racism; (e) all meetings of the Commission on Human Rights in 2005, and made interventions under agenda item 4 "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights"; item 5 "The right of peoples to self-determination and its application under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation"; item 6 "Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination"; item 7 "The right to development"; item 8 "Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine"; item 9 "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world"; item 10 "Economic, social and cultural rights"; item 11 "Civil and political rights, including the questions of (d) Independence of the judiciary, administration of justice, impunity; item 14 "Specific groups and individuals"; item 17 "Promotion and protection of human rights"; item 18 " Effective functioning of human rights mechanisms" and item 20 "Rationalization of the work of the Commission"; (f) Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in 2005, and made interventions under agenda item 2 "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories"; item 3 "Administration of justice, rule of law and democracy"; item 4 "Economic, social and cultural rights"; item 5 "Prevention of discrimination" and item 6 (b) "Specific human rights issues: contemporary forms of slavery"; (g) International Conference on Addressing the Humanitarian Needs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons inside Iraq and in Neighbouring Countries, United Nations Office at Geneva, April 2007; (h) meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference in 2007 and 2008, as well as preparations for the establishment of the Durban Review Conference Coordination Committee for NGOs; (i) EAFORD is a member of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) and its NGO Special Committee on Human Rights, Committee on Racism, Racial Discrimination and Decolonization and NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education, and of the World against Racism Network (WARN); (j) provided information to United Nations treaty bodies and special procedures including committees and working groups dealing with specific questions of racism and racial discrimination and submits observations, recommendations and reports to

the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as to international expert bodies and NGOs; (k) organized and sponsored briefings, round tables, and seminars, for example: seminar on the responsibility of the United Nations for the protection of human rights: a dialogue on the responsibilities of the international community and the United Nations human rights machinery and round table on human rights in Iraq, in March 2005 during the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights; round table on the independence of judges and lawyers, in June 2007 during the fifth session of the Human Rights Council; briefings on the rule of law and human rights and on human rights situations that require the Council's attention and side event on the right to health in the context of armed conflict in March 2008 during the seventh session of the Council; briefing on the independence of judges and international tribunals: keeping human rights in and politics out, and a conference-debate on the right to health and a safe environment in September 2008 during the ninth session of the Council; (l) EAFORD Executive Council members held annual meetings (2005-2008) convened at the EAFORD international secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. Among the projects highlighted were key actions to be undertaken with a special focus on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice concerning Israel's apartheid wall in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. EAFORD continued to mobilize resources and support United Nations system-wide actions to defend the interests of peoples who are victims of racism by promoting knowledge about and commitment to all appropriate measures that ensure respect for, and the rule of, international law; (m) Plan of Action for the first phase (2005-2009) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. EAFORD continued to assess progress made since the launch of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), and every year directed communications to ministers of education worldwide to include human rights education in their country's school curriculum and to commemorate Human Rights Day in all educational institutions. Efforts drew the attention of NGOs and United Nations bodies to the need to support and promote human rights education for groups suffering from discrimination, and the importance of taking into account the views of civil society actors and NGOs in the preparation of the draft United Nations declaration on human rights education and training that the drafting group of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council has set in motion; (n) circulated/distributed several reports by its international secretariat and Executive Council members offering the media and press interviews and reviews focusing on equality and anti-racism in the promotion and protection of human rights standards, cutting across regions and cultures; (o) information was provided regarding United Nations activities and the role EAFORD plays in combating racism and racial discrimination; maintained contact throughout the year with the United Nations and international organizations.

4. Watson Institute for International Studies (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies ("the Institute") supports the activities of faculty, visiting scholars and policymakers engaged in research on global development, security, media, environment, culture and identity, and governance. It also educates students of international relations, development

studies, Latin American and Caribbean studies, Middle East studies and South Asian studies. The Institute is uniquely positioned among peer research institutions and other NGOs in its inclusion of scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines and practitioners from around the world, and particularly from the developing world, as it actively bridges the work of international academics and practitioners to advance peaceful global development. In this context the Institute has long worked closely with the United Nations, other key international governmental organizations, national Governments and NGOs.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals: The Institute engaged a working relationship with the United Nations, and its work was of considerable significance to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Institute researchers participated in United Nations efforts in areas including counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, human rights, climate change and more. Activities took place both at United Nations sites and at the Institute. For example, a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Climate Change (goal 7: Ensure environmental stability) and the Chair of the African Union-United Nations Panel on Peacekeeping are both Brown University professors at large based at the Institute. They and others with development experience and United Nations portfolios, including several countries' ambassadors to the United Nations, joined with our scholars in relevant fields to increase the understanding of global issues on campus and beyond. With global development and international relations as two core areas of research and teaching, the Institute's work implicitly and explicitly supported the Millennium Development Goals and other principles of peaceful global development. One of the Institute's primary research endeavours was the Globalization and Inequality Initiative (goal 1), which analysed emerging and persistent inequalities excluding many groups and even entire nations from the potential benefits of globalization. The Institute helped new generations focus on today's global challenges. Examples included high school curriculum units published at the Institute, such as its "The United Nations: challenges and change", part of the Choices Programme; the undergraduate programmes mentioned in section I; a graduate programme in development; summer institutes on development and governance for scholars from the developing world; and environmental policy training for mid-career scholars and practitioners from the developing world (the Watson International Scholars of the Environment). Undergraduate and graduate students were provided with fellowships to analyse problems and opportunities throughout the developing world; examples included an undergraduate internship in the summer of 2008 with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (goal 6) in Thailand and one in the summer of 2005 with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (goal 2).

The United Nations World Summit on the Information Society: Participated in the summit in November 2005 in Tunis, advocating information technologies for development (goal 8).

United Nations Security Council debate: "Strengthening international law: the rule of law and the maintenance of international peace and security", June 2006. An Institute report, "Strengthening targeted sanctions through fair and clear procedures", was discussed and made an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council (see A/60/887-S/2006/331).

Thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: December 2007, Bali, Indonesia. Three representatives of the Institute attended to advance climate change policies (goal 7).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in field and/or at Headquarters

United Nations Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee: Driven by concerns for human rights, due process and effective targeted sanctions, Institute researchers engaged in a range of collaborations with States Members of the United Nations and officials. The official United Nations document on fair and clear procedures for targeted sanctions, now being updated, is leading to the formation of an international consortium of scholars to study the effects and effectiveness of United Nations targeted sanctions. The United Nations and the Institute drafted a memorandum of agreement on a project on terrorist financing indicators. During the reporting period the Institute led a seminar for senior staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on these issues in December 2006; conducted a workshop, co-sponsored by OHCHR in November 2006; and co-sponsored a symposium in April 2007 on "Enhancing the implementation of United Nations Security Council sanctions", opened by the Secretary-General, with representatives of the Secretariat including the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch, the Security Council Affairs Division and the Department of Political Affairs.

Department of Peacekeeping Operations: An Institute anthropologist who researches the impact of peacekeeping operations on local citizens cooperated with the Department's Conduct and Discipline Unit on recommendations on sexual exploitation and abuse. This included a train the trainers meeting in January 2007 in Brindisi, Italy, and nearly 150 follow-up interviews at the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. Also, a United Nations political affairs officer with peacekeeping oversight spent the 2007/08 academic year at the Institute.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): Brown was designated a UNEP "flagship university" for its Watson International Scholars of the Environment programme (goal 7) for policy training for professionals throughout the developing world (57 programme graduates to date from 40 countries). Institute researchers have also actively participated in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change formed by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (goal 7).

United Nations Climate Change Secretariat: The Institute in 2005-2007 helped track trends in State and non-State actor participation in climate negotiations (goal 7).

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): An expert consultation was held at the Institute in April 2005 on draft principles on housing and property restitution for refugees and other displaced persons for adoption by UNHCR (goal 1).

OHCHR, UNICEF and the World Health Organization: In March 2005 an expert meeting at the Institute was organized by a visiting professor at the Institute who led the United Nations Study on Violence against Children (goal 4). This same professor was based at the Institute from 2007 to 2008 when he authored, as Special

Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, his report (A/HRC/6/14) to the Human Rights Council. The Institute co-sponsored UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Mia Farrow's 2007 lecture at Brown on Darfur.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals and other global principles: The sections above include references to the Millennium Development Goals addressed. Further examples of the Institute's many more works addressing the Goals and global principles are: (a) nuclear non-proliferation: published the award-winning book, *The Nuclear Taboo*; (b) goals 7 and 8: journal issue on the role of the developing world's businesses in mitigating climate change (*Studies in Comparative International Development*, vol. 42, Nos. 3-4); (c) peacebuilding: "Speculations on the prospects for the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission" (*Disarmament Forum*, Issue 2, 2007); (d) goal 8: article entitled "Making space for civil society" (*Social Forces*, vol. 86, No. 3); (e) goal 8: retreat for international social entrepreneurs: "Sustaining social entrepreneurship: helping good works stay well" (at the Institute, September 2008).

5. Women's Federation for World Peace International (General; 1997)

I. Introduction

The aim of Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) is to realize a peaceful and harmonious global family. The organization's four major purposes are: empowerment of women worldwide; the reinforcement of family values; a sound upbringing of children; and building partnerships for peace through the cooperation of women. There are two major areas in which we work to attain these goals: (a) poverty eradication projects through service projects including building and running schools and vocational centres; microcredit programmes; foster parents and scholarship programmes; agriculture and food aid; AIDS prevention programme; sanitation and nutrition guidance and medical aid; and (b) the reconciliation and peacebuilding "Bridge of Peace" sisterhood project.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: **2005**: (a) **United Nations Headquarters, New York**: Forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women; 58th Annual Department of Public Information NGO Conference; and organized a workshop, "Girls' education: a key to poverty eradication" as an NGO parallel event at the Commission on the Status of Women; (b) **Geneva, Switzerland**: sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights; fifty-seventh session of the Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights; and jointly organized two panel sessions ("Mapping peace in Africa", "Crimes committed in the name of honour") and a consultation on the draft resolution on the right to development (item 7) at the Commission on Human Rights; (c) **Bangkok**: eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and jointly organized one NGO ancillary session; (d) **Kobe, Japan**: seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, and held an exhibition booth with a PowerPoint presentation and photo panels on AIDS prevention education.

2006: (a) **United Nations Headquarters**, New York: Fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and held a workshop, "Creating an enabling environment for women's participation", as an NGO parallel event; and 59th Annual Department of Public Information NGO Conference, and held a midday workshop, "Education, A key element of human security and sustainable development" and a luncheon meeting, both as NGO side events; (b) **Geneva, Switzerland**: sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights, and submitted a written joint statement on specific groups and individuals (item 14); first, second and third sessions of the Human Rights Council, and submitted a joint oral statement on the mandates of special procedures (item 6).

2007: (a) **United Nations Headquarters**, New York: Fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and organized a workshop, "Transforming value systems to eliminate violence and discrimination against and enhance the status of the girl child", as an NGO parallel event; informal preparatory meeting for the first Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council; (b) **Geneva, Switzerland**: sessions of the Human Rights Council: fourth session, joint written statement on human rights education and learning in the institution-building of the Human Rights Council (item 2); fifth session; and sixth session, joint NGO statement on follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (item 8) and joint statement on technical assistance and capacity-building (item 10); Annual Ministerial Review of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, and held an exhibition booth of three success stories at the Innovation Fair as a parallel event.

2008: (a) **United Nations Headquarters**, New York: Fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held a workshop, "Mobilizing grass-roots partners to finance empowerment and change lives, one woman at a time", as an NGO parallel event and submitted two joint written statements; Annual Ministerial Review of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, submitted a written statement to the substantive session of the Council and held an exhibition booth of two success stories at the Innovation Fair as a parallel event (the success stories are posted online at www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/irene); (b) **Geneva, Switzerland**: seventh session of the Human Rights Council, and submitted a joint written statement, "Promotion and protection of all human rights" (item 3); eighth session, for which we organized pre-meetings and drafted a joint oral statement on "Gender equality and economic reform" (item 8).

During the reporting period submitted written joint statements to the Conference on Disarmament on justice, peace and security, 2006; human security, 2007; and women, war, weapons and conflict prevention, 2008.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters 2005: United Nations Headquarters, New York, attended (a) a forum on the global perspective on ending racial discrimination in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Director and Senior Adviser to the Office of the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) was one of the panellists; (b) a forum on intensifying HIV prevention, leading up to World AIDS Day. The Director of UNAIDS in New York, the Ambassador of Malawi to the United Nations and the Director and Senior

Adviser to UN-OHRLLS were the panellists from the United Nations system. The following contributions were made by WFWPI representatives: submission of the article "Dignity: cornerstone of a culture of peace" to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and posted at www.eolss.net and submission of the response to the Secretary-General's report "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" and posted at www.un-ngls.org/sgreport-ngo-comment.html. Financial assistance presented for the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami: 300,000 yen to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Japan and $3,000.00 to the UNICEF through US Fund for UNICEF in New York. **2006**: the Associate Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Development Policy of the United Nations Development Programme gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Partnering for change; realizing the Millennium Development Goals together by 2015" at United Nations Headquarters, New York. **2007**: a senior representative of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs gave a presentation at the International Forum for Women, "International humanitarian support and information for humanity", sponsored by WFWPI in Kobe, Japan. **2007-2008**: Cooperation with the World Bank for the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Project by accepting 160 ex-combatants as students at the WFWPI-operated New Hope Technical Institute in Rwanda.

2008: the Director and Senior Adviser to UN-OHRLLS gave a presentation at an NGO parallel event at the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women sponsored by WFWPI; the Deputy Chief of the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the Director of UNAIDS gave presentations on NGO perspectives on the Millennium Development Goals: women's innovation for sustainable development sponsored by WFWPI at United Nations Headquarters, New York in connection with the Annual Ministerial Review; the Special Adviser to the Director of UN-HABITAT gave a presentation at the symposium "Let's create a happy world: international society and the role of NGOs" sponsored by WFWPI in Fukuoka, Japan. Financial assistance was granted by WFWPI in Jordan to the UNHCR Jordan Office in the amount of 500,000 yen for the attendance of 2,000 Iraqi refugees at the international football game sponsored by the Norway Football Association and $6,500 for uniforms and equipment for a football team of 100 young Iraqi refugee players supported by WFWPI Jordan. Joint sponsorship with the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the WFWPI Fourth Forum on the Eradication of Poverty, "Global public health and the eradication of poverty", at the 2009 Annual Ministerial Review at United Nations Headquarters, New York. The Chief of the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Director of the World Food Programme in New York and the Director of UNAIDS in New York were panellists from the United Nations system; also included were the Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea to the United States and five other representatives from civil society.

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals: Contributed in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe and Oceania. Major actions undertaken were (data reflects total numbers of people served from 2005 to 2008): (a) **goal 1**: **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**. Target 1 — Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than $1 a day. **Action**: 519 women participated in microcredit projects, started small businesses and succeeded in achieving economic independence. Target 2 — Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all. **Action**: 2,251 women and

girls graduated from WFWPI vocational schools and either got a job or started their own business. Target 3 — Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. **Action**: provided school lunch for 1,678 pupils and students in WFWPI schools; (b) **goal 2**: **Achieve universal primary education**. Target 1 — Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling. **Action**: 3,061 pupils received primary education and graduated from WFWPI-built and -managed schools; 1,724 pupils received financial support from the Foster Parents Programme and scholarships to attend elementary school; (c) **goal 3**: **Promote gender equality and empower women**. Target 1 — Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015. **Action**: 50 per cent of students who enrolled and attended WFWPI elementary and secondary schools were girls. Nine hundred women in Europe participated in a campaign of seminars and conferences on gender equality and empowerment of women organized by WFWPI; (d) **goal 4**: **Reduce child mortality**. Target 1 — Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five. **Action**: mothers of 13,716 malnourished children under the age of five received nutrition guidance classes and porridge with soybean powder for their children and 1,760 children gained weight back to their standard weight; (e) **goal 5**: **Improve maternal health**. Target 1 — Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio. **Action**: 191 pregnant women received 100 tablets of anti-anaemic chalybeate, anti-malarial chloroquine and a mosquito net; (f) **goal 6**: **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**. Target 1 — Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. **Action**: developed an AIDS prevention education programme; 40,656 people attended AIDS prevention seminars. Target 3 — Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. **Action**: provided free medical services such as medical examinations and hygiene instructions, including malaria prevention, for 4,710 people in villages without doctors and hospitals; (g) **goal 7**: **Ensure environmental sustainability**. Target 3 — Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. **Action**: constructed wells and sanitation facilities such as toilets and hand-wash stations in WFWPI schools, helping 6,541 students. Two hundred and fifty women attended seminars on reducing, reusing and recycling garbage organized by WFWPI; (h) **goal 8**: **Develop a global partnership for development**. Target 4 — In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries. **Action**: installation of medical box system in villages without doctors and hospitals providing access to low-cost medicines for 8,400 villagers. Target 6 — In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications. **Action**: installation of an Internet room in a library and a computer course in a WFWPI training centre helped 665 women learn Internet technologies.